

What is claimed is:

1. A method for predicting treatment efficacy in pregnant mares affected by a disease or condition that alters placental function and results in a problematic pregnancy or delivery in the mare comprising:
- 5 (a) measuring the levels of relaxin in plasma of a pregnant mare before administration of a drug or treatment;
- 10 (b) administering the drug or treatment to the mare; and
- 15 (c) measuring the levels of relaxin in plasma of the mare following administration of the drug or treatment from the first day of drug or treatment administration until the time of delivery in the mare, wherein a failure of the plasma relaxin levels to increase following drug or treatment administration is indicative of a problematic pregnancy or delivery in the mare.
2. A diagnostic kit for predicting treatment efficacy in prenanant mares affected by a disease or
- 20 condition that alters placental function and results in a problematic pregnancy or delivery in the mare comprising:
- (a) a means for detecting equine relaxin levels in plasma of a pregnant mare before administration of a drug or treatment; and
- 25 (b) a means of detecting equine relaxin levels in plasma of a pregnant mare after administration of a drug or treatment from the first day of drug or treatment administration until the time of delivery in the mare.

10079040.022002